



## Focus on Religious Freedom

[www.cffor.org](http://www.cffor.org)

---

*"Conscience is the most sacred of all property." - James Madison, 1792*

### **An Attack on Religious Liberty is an Attack on All Our Freedoms**

"More than 200 years ago, the Founding Fathers changed the world by embedding the fundamental human right to religious freedom in the U.S. Constitution. That right now hangs by a thread. More precisely, the First Amendment's "free exercise" of religion clause - that is, the freedom to not just believe but act consistent with one's faith in the public square - is in peril of collapse," wrote author Wesley Smith. <sup>(1)</sup> The current crisis has several causes that include the secularizing of American culture. Many non-believers don't value religious freedom because they fail to understand that this freedom is the bedrock upon which all our other freedoms are built.

The First Amendment is often no longer interpreted as intended. This started in the 1990 Supreme Court decision involving two Native Americans denied unemployment benefits after being fired for ingesting peyote during a religious ceremony. This case opened the door to oppressing faithful people and led to a public outcry that further led to the creation of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (RFRA).

Today, many public figures want to destroy RFRA and are promoting the Equality Act, (more accurately called Inequality Act) and the harmful Do No Harm Act that would nullify RFRA's intent to protect religious freedom. If these two acts are passed and signed, Americans' freedom of religion would shrivel to a mere "freedom of worship." This means we would have the right to believe inside the walls of houses of worship but wouldn't be free to act on our beliefs in our public lives.

Sadly, if the U.S. "first liberty" can be so casually thrown away, so too could any other American freedom. This means we all have an essential stake in preserving freedom of religion. "Because once one fundamental freedom is 'disappeared,' others will surely follow." <sup>(2)</sup>

*"It is not enough to say we are Christians.*

*We must live the faith, not only with our words, but with our actions." Pope Francis*

(epochtimes.com, 5/24/21(1)(2); adl.org, 3/3/17; nbcnews.com, 2/6/18; christianitytoday.com, 3/1/23)